

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279853

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP: PMOLINEAUX

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

NSC:ROAKLEY

S/S-O:L.MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MU, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SULTAN QABUS TO US

REF: (A) LONDON 16684, (B) STATE 279672, (C) MUSCAT 591

FOR LAMBRAKIS

1. PLEASE ADVISE ZAWAWI AS FOLLOWS: IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO GET DECISION ON CHANGE OF SULTAN'S CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD ON JANUARY 9 FROM 10:30 A.M. TO A LATER HOUR. PRESIDENT HAS DEPARTED WASHINGTON FOR CHRISTMAS. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE THAT SULTAN PLAN ON ASSUMPTION HE SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 9 IN TIME FOR 10:30 APPOINTMENT.

2. WE WILL NEVERTHELESS SEEK ARRANGE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 9 AT LATER HOUR AND ADVISE ASAP. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, WHITE HOUSE DECISION MAY TAKE
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AT LEAST ONE WEEK. OUR PRESENT INFORMATION IS THAT A LATER

TIME WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, BUT PERHAPS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

3. ARRIVAL DATE OF JANUARY 8 WAS PROPOSED (REFTEL B) IN LIGHT OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JANUARY 9. ARRIVAL JANUARY 7 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT IN THAT CASE MEETING WITH

PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY ON SECOND FULL DAY OF VISIT. CONTRARY TO PARA 3 REFTTEL A, REFTTEL C STATED THAT JANUARY 6,7, OR 9 ARRIVAL DATE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SULTAN.

4. ACCORDING TO USG DESIGNATION OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF VISITS BY CHIEFS OF STATE TO WASHINGTON, "OFFICIAL" VISITS NORMALLY ENCOMPASS A SOCIAL FUNCTION BY THE PRESIDENT. MEETING OF SULTAN WITH PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ARRANGED, BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OMANI WISHES HERETOFORE HAS NOT INCLUDED A PRESIDENTIAL SOCIAL FUNCTION, AND NONE IS PLANNED. IN THIS TECHNICAL SENSE, VISIT CANNOT BE FORMALLY CLASSIFIED AS QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE AS REQUESTED REFTTEL A PARA 4. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED REFTTEL B, VISIT WILL INCLUDE HIGH LEVEL SOCIAL FUNCTION AND MEETINGS WITH HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIALS AND WE CERTAINLY VIEW SUCH A PROGRAM AS "OFFICIAL" EXCEPT IN TECHNICAL SENSE DESCRIBED ABOVE. DETAILS WILL BE FIXED AND REPORTED AS THE PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED, PENDING OMANI ACCEPTANCE OF BROAD OUTLINES PROPOSED REFTTEL B.

5. PLEASE ADVISE IF FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO SULTAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE279853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMOLINEAUX
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740372-0386
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741216/aaaaanla.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 LONDON 16684, 74 STATE 279672, 74 MUSCAT 591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SULTAN QABUS TO US
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MU, US, (QABUS, SULTAN)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005